



Testimony of William Campion President, CEO of Campion Ambulance Service Inc.

IN OPPOSITION TO

HB 6518 An Act Concerning Emergency Medical Services

Senator Gerratana and Representative Johnson and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee, my name is William Campion and I am President and CEO of Campion Ambulance Service Inc. headquartered in Waterbury and serving the city of Torrington and the Towns of Cheshire and Prospect. I am here today to testify in strong opposition to House Bill 6518 an Act Concerning Emergency Medical Services.

The system of Emergency Medical Services in Connecticut is an intricate well balanced and interconnected system composed of not for profit, municipal based, hospital based and private for profit service providers. The stability, quality of service, accountability and cost effectiveness of the system is based upon three (3) primary principles:

Primary Service Area Assignment

Certificate of Need Determination

Regulation of Rates for Service

The changes proposed by HB6518 I would most voice opposition to are those that would allow a municipality to unilaterally change the assignment of a Primary Service Area. The current process for change in the assignment of a Primary Service Area is competently handled by the Department of Public Health after a detailed analysis of facts and completion of a public administrative hearing. This process allows for the consideration of all community stakeholders and most importantly allows the assigned service area provider due process. More importantly any decision concluded from this process can be arrived at without undue political influence and can be made based upon objective analysis of evidence presented during the hearing process.

The quality provision of Emergency Medical Services requires a considerable financial investment in resources and infrastructure. Likewise any advancement in medical practice or procedures require investments in training and in equipment each having its' own financial implication. My organization has over the past ten (10) years made several hundreds of thousands of dollars of taxable investment in equipment, infrastructure, personal property and procurement of goods and services as a commitment to the communities which we serve. A primary factor in making these decisions is the basic principle which provides a reasonable assurance, free from any extraneous political influence, that we will continue to be allowed to provide service within the communities in which we have invested.

Additionally House Bill 6518 would propose to eliminate the certificate of need process. The certificate of need process is one of the primary stabilizing principles in the delivery of Emergency Medical Services within our state. The current process as handled by the Department of Public Health assures a comprehensive integrated system for the provision of Emergency Medical Services throughout the State of Connecticut which is based upon the objective evaluation of need. This evaluation assures the continuation and viability of a system that is both economically viable and sustainable. This process is critical to the long term viability of our current Emergency Medical Services system in Connecticut.

The process of rate setting as currently exists in our state provides for protection of both the consumer as well as the provider of Emergency Medical Services. The Department of Public Health does promulgate a system which evaluates in a transparent fashion the balance of cost effectiveness for the consumer and economic viability and sustainability for the provider of service. This process is a critical component in maintaining the stability of our system here in Connecticut.

In conclusion I stand in firm opposition to HB 6518 and respectfully ask the Public Health Committee to oppose its' passage.

Respectfully,

William T. Campion